

REMARKS

The specification has been amended for clarity, as have the claims and abstract. However, attorney for applicant does not understand Examiner's comment that an abstract was not filed because the file of attorney for applicant includes an abstract. The Examiner is requested to verify the fact that the application as filed does not include an abstract. To provide applicants with the protection to which they are deemed entitled, claims 10-13 have been added and claim 7 has been replaced by claim 14. In clarifying the claims, the apparatus claims have been amended so they are infringed at the time the library device is sold, and prior to the library device being put into use in combination with the data storage devices. In addition, the apparatus claims have been amended to preclude interpretation thereof under 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 6. New independent method claim 12 defines applicants' contribution to the art in a slightly different manner from previously submitted independent claim 7 and presently submitted claim 14. Dependent claims 10, 11 and 13 indicate the cartridge includes a magnetic tape. The amendments to the claims overcome the objections to claims 1 and 2.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1-9 as being obvious as a result of Balsom, U.S. Patent 5,592,596, in view of the admitted prior art of Fig. 1 and Arcotta, U.S. Patent 5,121,687.

Claim 1, particularly as amended, requires a reader for transducing data via a vis the high capacity medium of a cartridge device and an automatic selector operable to select, retrieve and replace the cartridge data storage device from receptacles, wherein the selector is configured to selectively load one of the cartridges in the reader. The reader is configured to read the data

signals from the programmable memory on the cartridge loaded in the reader and print indications derived from the data.

Applicants cannot agree that the combination of references proposed in the Office Action makes the foregoing automatic library device obvious.

Balsom discloses a system and method for automatically printing storage media labels. To obtain the information to be printed, the storage medium is accessed and read in the conventional manner. Hence, Balsom has the same problems as the prior art discussed in the introductory portion in the present application. In particular, in the Balsom system, the high capacity storage medium must be loaded into a reader and must include information about the remainder of the contents of the medium. The information about the remainder of the medium is read and supplied to a printer. In contrast, in applicants' library system, as defined by claim 1, considerably faster access to the information about the contents of the storage medium is obtained because this information is on a programmable memory of a cartridge having a casing including a high capacity data storage medium. In other words, it is not necessary, with applicants' library device as set forth in claim 1, to access the high capacity data storage medium to obtain information necessary to activate the printer.

While the admitted prior art discloses a cartridge including a large storage data medium and a programmable memory on the exterior of the cartridge, the admitted prior art does not indicate the programmable memory includes information about the cartridge that is read out to a printer. Consequently, the combination of Balsom and the admitted prior art to reject claim 1 is

improper. Applicant fails to see how Arcotta has anything to do with the subject matter of claim

1.

The combination of Balsom and the admitted prior art to reject claim 1 is also a matter of hindsight. The Examiner, to reject claim 1, has cast about to find some of the features of claim 1.

After finding these features, the Examiner concluded that the combination claim 1 defines is obvious. There is no suggestion from the references for the proposed combination.

Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined Balsom and the admitted prior art to arrive at the combination of claim 1.

Claims 2-6, which depend on claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons advanced for claim 1. In addition, claim 2 requires a port configured to accept the cartridge-type data storage device to include a printer, a feature not found in the admitted prior art or Balsom. Claim 3 requires an interface for interfacing a processor for communicating data signals read from a programmable memory to an external processor device. Claim 4 includes a similar limitation. Claim 5 defines the combination of a read-only memory storing and operating system for operating a processor to display data items received from of the data items, in combination with a display arranged to display the data items read from the programmable memory via the receiver.

From the foregoing, the claims which depend on claim 1 include, in many instances, limitations not disclosed or made obvious by the art of record and allowance thereof, along with independent claim 1, is in order.

Claim 14, which replaces claim 7, defines a method of labeling a data storage device carrying a large capacity memory medium and a small capacity programmable memory positioned on the exterior of a casing of the data storage device. The programmable memory stores data signals describing information about the data storage device. The method comprises the steps of (1) placing the data storage device in a port of a reader capable of reading the data signals; (2) reading the data signals while the data storage device is in the port; (3) polling a detector of the read data signals; (4) receiving the data signals; (5) storing the data signals in a memory of said reader; and (6) responding to the data signals stored in the memory of the reader by printing the information in such a way that the printed information can be put on the data storage device.

As pointed out previously, Balsom employs a time-consuming procedure and apparatus for obtaining somewhat similar results and the admitted prior art does not include a programmable memory with information about the cartridges that is read out for printing. Because of the advantageous results applicant achieves with the stated combination of steps, the method of claim 14 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 8 and 9, which depend on claim 14, are patentable with claim 14.

New claim 12 defines a method of obtaining information about a high-capacity data storage medium carried by a cartridge having a low capacity memory. The information is obtained without reading the high capacity data storage medium. The method comprises loading signals indicative of the information into the low capacity memory. The cartridge is

subsequently loaded into a reader including a first transducer for the high capacity data storage medium and a second transducer for the low capacity memory. The signals indicative of the information stored in the low capacity memory are read by using the second transducer. In response to the signals read by the second transducer indicative of the information stored in the low capacity memory, human readable material commensurate with the information stored in the low capacity memory is applied to the cartridge exterior.

This combination of steps is not disclosed or made obvious by the art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and Remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested and deemed in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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